

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS



The first Office Action issued in the above-identified U.S. patent application sets forth a restriction requirement between claims 1-15 directed to a refrigerator cabinet assembly and claims 16-21 directed to a method of assembling a refrigerator cabinet.

Initially, the Applicant acknowledges the right of the Examiner to restrict between the product and method claims in this application. However, given the analogous subject matter of these claims, it is respectfully submitted that a complete search of the apparatus or product claims would encompass a search for the method claims. In connection with both of these claims, the Examiner will note that a refrigerator cabinet must include a shell defined by side walls interconnected by a top wall and which includes an in-turned front edge portion that defines a flange assembly including at least a front flange leading to a return flange that extends to a rear flange, and reinforcing members which are arranged against a respective rear flange and a corresponding side wall. In any case, given this clearly analogous subject matter as should be readily apparent from viewing independent claims 1 and 16 respectively, reconsideration by the Examiner and withdrawal of the restriction requirement are requested. However, in order to comply with the restriction requirement, the Applicant does hereby elect claims 1-15 directed to the refrigerator cabinet assembly, should the Examiner maintain the restriction requirement. Given the basis for reconsideration, the election is made with traverse.

If the Examiner should have any questions concerning this election, she is cordially invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided below to further expedite the prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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